



Within and Without:

Liberation Theology at Work in Social Movements

An Interfaith Conference Examining Spiritual Practices for the Liberation of Today's World

October 11 – 14, 2019



Art by Ricardo Levins Morales

Facilitators

In order of appearance



Ralph McCloud

Ralph is the Director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in Washington DC. CCHD is an anti-poverty program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Prior to working the USCCB, Ralph worked as the Director of Pastoral and Community Services for the Diocese of Fort Worth TX. Ralph served 4 terms on the Fort Worth City Council from 1997 – 2005 and 3 terms as Mayor Pro Tempore for a city with a population of 750,000. He worked tirelessly to improve the plight of low income communities that he represented and was seen as a respected advocate for low income communities and improving the plight of the poor. After retiring from the council, he was selected to Chair the County's first Homeless Commission and was awarded the first Racial **Reconciliation** Award from the Tarrant Area Community of Churches. He has received several awards including the State of Texas **Courage** Award in 2007 from the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty for his work with death row inmates and advocacy, and the Harry A. Fagan Award in 2018 for his work in social justice, among others. Ralph serves on the boards of the Center for Migrations Studies of New York and the Catholic Mobilizing Network, a Catholic effort to end the death penalty and promote restorative justice.

Will O'Brien

Will is part of the Vine & Fig Tree intentional Christian community in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. He coordinates the Alternative Seminary (www.alternativeseminary.net), a grassroots network of people of faith engaging in a liberation reading of the Bible in dialogue with our world. He has been involved in issues of poverty and homelessness for over thirty-five years



Mark Hathaway

Mark is a Canada Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Waterloo, ON, Canada. He is the principal author – together with Brazilian theologian Leonardo Boff – of *The Tao of Liberation: Exploring the Ecology of Transformation* (Orbis Books, 2009, www.taofliberation.com) which explores the political, economic, and psychological dimensions of the current ecological crisis as well as cosmological insights related to processes of transformation. Mark teaches courses on transformative learning for the Earth Charter Initiative in San José, Costa Rica as well as courses at the University of Toronto and a variety of Latin American universities. His academic papers explore themes related to ecological wisdom, Joanna Macy's Work that Reconnects, environmental ethics, and permaculture. In addition to research and teaching, Mark has extensive experience working on social and ecological justice issues in church and ecumenical organizations in both Canada and Latin America. He currently lives in Toronto with his spouse, Maritza, and his daughter, Jamila.

Rabbi Mordechai Liebling

Mordechai is founder and director of the Social Justice Organizing Program at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Prior to this he was the Executive Vice-President of Jewish Funds for Justice, the Torah of Money Director of the Shefa Fund, and the Executive Director of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. He is on the boards of the Faith and Politics Institute and the Shalom Center. He and his life-partner Lynne Iser facilitate "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream" and "The Work That Reconnects" symposia. He responded to clergy calls to come to Ferguson, Standing Rock and Charlottesville.





Jerusha Tanner Rhodes

Jerusha is a Muslima theologian, scholar, and public educator. She is Assistant Professor of Islam and Interreligious Engagement and Director of the Islam, Social Justice and Interreligious Engagement Program (ISJIE) at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. Her work and writing focus on Islamic feminism, interreligious engagement, religious pluralism, and social justice. She has a Ph.D. and M.A. in Theological and Religious Studies with a focus on Religious Pluralism from Georgetown University; an M.A. in Islamic Sciences at the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences; and a B.A. in Anthropology and Religion from American University.

She is author of *Never Wholly Other: A Muslima Theology of Religious Pluralism* (Oxford University Press, 2014) which re-interprets the Qur'anic discourse on religious 'otherness' and diversity, and *Divine Words, Female Voices: Muslima Explorations in Comparative Feminist Theology*, Oxford University, 2018) which explores the possibilities of comparative feminist theology. As Director of ISJIE, she plans and facilitates academic and public education programs that cultivate Islamic perspectives on pressing social justice issues. Some of these programs include the MDiv degree in Islam and Interreligious Engagement for leaders working in and with Muslim communities, the annual Muslim Women Leaders Program, the Islam in the Public Square Scholars Cohort, and a series of public lectures and events. Dr. Lamptey is also a frequent public speaker on Islam, religious diversity, Islamophobia, and gender, working with community organizations, religious organizations, media, and educational institutions in New York City and around the world.

Anton Flores-Maisonet

Anton is the co-founder of Casa Alternativa, a hospitality house located in a Georgia community comprised entirely of first-wave immigrants, primarily from Guatemala. Casa Alternativa is committed to faithful acts of justice, mercy, and solidarity. Flores-Maisonet is also co-founder of El Refugio Ministry and Georgia Detention Watch. Casa Alternativa has been named Organization of the Year by Mundo Hispánico, Atlanta's largest Spanish newspaper. You can follow Anton on Instagram and Twitter at @antonofalternativa and Casa Alternativa on Facebook at facebook.com/alternacomunity.





Amanda Kemp

Amanda is a racial justice and mindfulness mentor. Author of *Say the Wrong Thing: Stories and Strategies for Racial Justice and Authentic Community*, she has been called a master teacher, having helped over 25,000 people build their capacity to practice self-compassion and self-critique. Her H.E.A.R.T. Method for Racial Justice and Mindful Living has been adopted by teachers from grade 6-college levels. Dr. Kemp is a Visiting Scholar in Africana Studies at Franklin & Marshall College and a graduate of Stanford and Northwestern Universities. Her TEDxtalk, "How to Have a Voice and Lean in to Conversations about Race," was recently

released. She regularly mentors educators and leaders via her Compassionate Change Makers Program and online classes.

Raj Lewis

Raj currently serves as the shelter and recovery manager at City Team in Chester, PA working with men in early recovery from addiction, homelessness, and in need of emergency shelter. He is also the housing director for The Negev Life-Sharing Community, a housing community of families living in solidarity with men transitioning out of incarceration and addiction. Raj is also the co-founder of Seven Harvests, a seasonal fine-dining experience that connects local and sustainable agriculture, natural gourmet cooking, theology, and the reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals. Raj has directed workforce development programs for adjudicated youth and ex-offenders in Chester County and North Philadelphia as well as led leadership development programs with inmates in the Chester Prison. Raj studied comparative religion at Miami University, urban ministry at Westminster Theological Seminary, spiritually-integrated counseling at Biblical Theological Seminary, and is a current pastoral counseling doctoral student at Neumann University. Raj has been a serious student of liberation theology for the past 15 years and is committed to living out the praxis of liberation in his ministry.



Nadine Hoover

Nadine is Coordinator of Friends Peace Teams' Asia West Pacific Initiative and the Power of Goodness Global Story Pool, and Director of Conscience Studio. She has been an Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) facilitator since 1978 and a conscientious objector to war tax counselor with the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee. Nadine has identified universal practices to preserve cultures of peace in the most unlikely places: refugee, militant, or professional communities. Nadine has faith in the power and promise of peace, trains citizen leaders in the operating dynamics of peace and nonviolence, and works to make public-sanctioned violence illegal. She leads an annual International Peace

Training in Central Java and disseminates the message of peace globally through the Power of Goodness Global Story Pool. Nadine is a graduate of George School, Friends World College, and Florida State University, and former Secretary of Southeastern Yearly Meeting.



Renée McKenzie-Hayward

Renée was born and raised in Chester, PA where she attended Chester public schools. Renee was further educated at the University of Pennsylvania (BS), Temple University (MA, PhD), Palmer Theological Seminary (MDiv), and The General Theological Seminary (Diploma in Anglican Studies). Ordained as an Episcopal priest in 2001, she has previously served Grace Church Haddonfield, Haddonfield, NJ (Associate Rector), and Calvary St. Augustine Episcopal Church, Philadelphia PA (Rector). In 2011 she began her ministry at the Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia, PA where in addition to being the Vicar of the congregation she is also a Chaplain to Temple University. As an adjunct professor Renee has taught classes at Rutgers University, Temple University, Palmer Theological Seminary, and The Lutheran Theological Seminary. Her teaching included classes on Black Church History and Theology, Racial Justice, Womanist Theology and Systematic Theology. She is frequently invited to guest preach and serve as a retreat leader. Renee's most recent paper, 'Being the Advocate,' was published in the June 2014 in the *Anglican and Episcopal History Journal of the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church* and shares the unique and profound history of the Church of the Advocate. Renee is married to Isaac Hayward with whom she has two children.

Wende Elizabeth Marshall

Wende was born in New Haven, Connecticut in 1961 at the height of the Civil Rights Movement. She worked as a student and community organizer in Central Harlem, New York City during the 1980s and graduated with an M.A. in religious studies from Union Theological Seminary in 1992. In 1999 she received a Ph.D. in anthropology from Princeton University. Her scholarly work centers on the study of race/class, medicine, science and social change, topics covered in her book (Potent Mana: Lessons in Power and Healing) exploring the effects of colonialism on the physical, mental, and spiritual health of Native Hawaiians. The book chronicles indigenous efforts to decolonize through healing, remembering, and political action. Marshall is also a leader of Stadium Stompers, a movement of North Philadelphia-based community members, students, and workers fighting to stop Temple University's proposed football stadium. As an adjunct at Temple University, Marshall was a leader in the efforts to unionize adjuncts, resulting in their joining the Temple Association of University Professionals, for which she served as Chair of the Adjunct Constituency Council and member of the Executive Committee. Marshall is also a member of LeftRoots and of the Circle on Revolutionary Nonviolence.



Coordinators



Lina Blount

Lina is the Education Coordinator for Pendle Hill, where she has worked since April 2016. Lina has worked on environmental justice campaigns in the Philadelphia since 2011. She has organized and managed messaging for a variety of social justice events, ranging from sit-ins in bank branches, to anti-fracking press conferences in Harrisburg, to panel discussions at Friends Center, and volunteer meetings in diner parking lots. Lina has worked with the Long Haul team of the Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network, and Mark Engler, co-author of *This Is an Uprising: How Non-Violent Revolt is Shaping the Twenty-first Century*. Lina was the anti-fracking field organizer for PennEnvironment from 2013 to 2015, where she ran two summer canvas offices and became increasingly fascinated by the skills and stories people find most helpful in realizing and using their power to win positive change under seemingly bleak circumstances. Lina considers the Earth Quaker Action Team and Pendle Hill her primary spiritual communities, and has been on the board of the Earth Quaker Action Team since 2013, serving as board co-clerk since July 2018.

Francisco Burgos

Francisco is the Director of Education at Pendle Hill and before joining Pendle Hill community he served as Director of the Center for Community Initiatives at the Monteverde Institute, in Monteverde, Costa Rica. He was a faculty member at La Salle University and at the National Technical University in Costa Rica. Francisco has facilitated trainings and workshops focused on education, sustainability, community development as well as spiritual retreats, among other experiential learning opportunities. Francisco was born in the Dominican Republic and he has lived and worked in several countries of the Americas. He is affiliated to Amerindia, a network of theologians from Latin America and the Caribbean and he has special concern for a diverse group of issues including environmental, social and racial justice, decolonial thought, progressive education, and intercultural pedagogic process.

